

H. S. R. No.

646

By Stewart & Connell

WHEREAS, The 33rd Annual Texas-Oklahoma Fair held in Iowa Park, Texas, will be dedicated to the Honorable Sam Rayburn of Bonham, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the 84th Congress, who represents the Fourth Congressional District of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The selection of Speaker Rayburn for this honor because of his great contributions to Texas, the nation and the world, has just been announced by C. E. Birk, president, and T. Leo Moore, executive vice-president of the fair; and

WHEREAS, When he attends the fair on Pioneer Day, September 26th, the program will include a special dedicatory ceremony in his honor; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that Speaker Rayburn be honored on Pioneer Day at the fair, his family having come to Fannin County, Texas, from a small eastern Tennessee farm in 1887, when he was five years old; and

WHEREAS, He was born on January 6, 1882, one of eleven children of William Marion Rayburn, a farmer and for four years a Confederate cavalryman, and Martha Waller Rayburn, whose family members were noted in Virginia for generations as outstanding public officials, clergymen and educators; and

WHEREAS, Young Sam Rayburn worked on his family's ^{forty-acre} ~~40-acre~~ cotton farm in North Texas and attended a one-teacher, one-room school at Flag Springs near his home until he was ^{sixteen} ~~16~~; then he attended Professor W. L. Mayo's East Texas Normal College, having arrived at that school with only \$25 in his pocket; and

WHEREAS, After working his way through a year of higher education by ringing the college bell, sweeping out the public schools, making fires and doing various odd jobs, he taught school for a year before returning to complete work for a bachelor of science degree, which he received after having completed the three-year normal college course in two years; and

WHEREAS, After two years as a country school teacher, Rayburn ran for the House of Representatives of the Texas Legislature, was elected in 1906, and served for six years in that body, the last four as Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, He was elected to the speakership of the Texas House at the age of ^{twenty nine,} ~~29~~, up to that time the youngest man to hold the office; and

WHEREAS, He attended the University of Texas Law School and was admitted to the bar; and

WHEREAS, At the age of ^{thirty,} ~~30~~, he ran for Congress from the Fourth Congressional District of Texas and, having been elected, arrived in Washington just in time for Woodrow Wilson's first inauguration; and

WHEREAS, He was an ardent supporter of President Wilson and, as a freshmen member of Congress, authored an important part of the Wilson legislative program, including a bill to give the Interstate Commerce Commission the right to regulate railroad stocks and bonds; and

WHEREAS, Later, in 1917, he sponsored the War Risk Insurance Act, which provided the first insurance for soldiers and sailors, the first allotments to servicemen's families, and the first disability payments for wounded servicemen; and

WHEREAS, Early in his career in the National House of Representatives, he was assigned to the active and influential Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce and, as a member, played a major role in implementing the New Deal program of President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

WHEREAS, In 1933⁹ he was author of the Truth in Securities Acts and the Railroad Holding Company Bill, and the next year he was author of the bill creating the Securities and Exchange Commission which regulates stock exchanges; and

WHEREAS, During this same period, he was also sponsor of the bill creating the Federal Communications Commission and author of the Public Utility Holding Company Act, which became law after one of the bitterest struggles ever seen on Capitol Hill; and

WHEREAS, in 1936⁷ he and the late Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska were authors of the Rural Electrification Act, which brought electricity to most of the farm homes of the nation; and

WHEREAS, His interest in rural life also prompted him in 1944 to initiate the Federal program for the building of farm-to-market roads by holding up the Federal Highway Act until the rural roads program was included; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Rayburn has remained an active farmer and cattleman and today has an outstanding small herd of Polled Hereford cattle in Fannin County; and

WHEREAS, He worked for years to bring to fruition in 1944 plans for Denison Dam on the Red River between Texas and Oklahoma to create Lake Texoma, which at the time of its construction was the fifth largest man-made lake in the world; and

WHEREAS, In January, 1937, Rayburn was elected Democratic majority leader in the House of Representatives and in this capacity had the responsibility for guiding President Roosevelt's program through the House; and

WHEREAS, Upon the death of Speaker Will Bankhead, Rayburn was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress on September 16, 1940, and with the exceptions of the 80th Congress (1947-¹⁴~~49~~) and the 83rd Congress (1953-1955), he has held that office ever since; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 1951, he started setting a new record for having held the speakership longer than any man in American history, on that date having broken Henry Clay's record of eight years, four months and eleven days; and

WHEREAS, Rayburn is now in his ^{seventeenth} ~~17th~~ year as Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, From 1947 to 1949 (80th Congress) and from 1953 to 1955 (83rd Congress), he served as Democratic leader in the House; and

WHEREAS, He has served three times as permanent chairman of the Democratic National Convention, in Philadelphiaⁱⁿ in 1948 and in Chicago in 1952 and 1956; and

WHEREAS, He has served under eight presidents of the United States-- Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy; and

WHEREAS, In May, 1949, he won the \$10,000 Collier's Award for distinguished service to the nation, which prize he set aside as the nucleus for building the Sam Rayburn Library in Bonham, Texas, to house all his personal files and papers, along with the mementoes of a half-century of public service; and

WHEREAS, The Sam Rayburn Library, a half-million dollar marble structure, was dedicated on October 9, 1957, by former President Harry S. Truman, former Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson and others as a research center for students of democratic government; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of pioneers and friends from North Texas and Southern Oklahoma welcome the opportunity to pay tribute to this outstanding statesman September 26, 1961, on Pioneer Day at the Texas-Oklahoma Fair in Iowa Park; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the State of Texas congratulates Sam Rayburn on his distinguished career of public service and ^{also congratulate} the directors and officials of the Texas-Oklahoma Fair on choosing to dedicate the fair to him this year; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we commend the people of North Texas and Southern Oklahoma for the interest and cooperation which has made the Texas-Oklahoma Fair an outstanding annual event and wish them continued success in this worthy undertaking.

H.S.R. # 646 - Stewart, W.
et al

DATE MAY 11 1961

READ AND ADOPTED

Dorothy Hallman
CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11 1961 SENT TO ENROLLING CLERK

ENROLLED 5-11-61
Enr. Clerk